

03500.017925



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Shigemichi HAMANO, et al.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/786,117	)	
	:	
Filed: February 26, 2004	)	
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	)	April 20, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of the non-English patent documents and counterpart abstracts also are enclosed.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, Applicants submit that no Statement, Petition, or fee is necessitated by the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any fee, which may be deemed necessary in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

#### REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document Nos. 2001-175086 and 2000-231276 are discussed at least at page 5, line 11 through page 6, line 6 of the specification.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2-123385 is discussed at least at page 6, lines 7 through 20 of the specification. U.S. Patent No. 5,450,180 is identified as being in the patent family of Japanese Patent Document No. 2-123385.

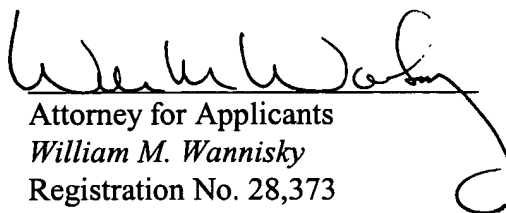
#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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